Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. An expenditure of Rs. 764.42 crore has been incurred during Ninth Five Year Plan under CAD programme and an outlay of Rs. 202 crore has been earmarked for the year 2002-03.

For meeting future requirements of water as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro-power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Clearance to Mahadayi Diversion Project

756. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given clearance for the Mahadayi Diversion Project proposed by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, when the clearance was granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Goa Government has filed an appeal raising objections; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken steps to resolve the matter by mutual discussions between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources granted an "In-Principle" clearance from water availability angle on 30th April, 2002 to the Government of Karnataka at

its request for diverting 7.56 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of Madei water to meet the drinking water needs of Hubli/Dharwad towns of State of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The Government of Goa in July, 2002 made a request to the Central Government under Section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, as amended, for appointment of River Water Disputes Judicial Tribunal and referring the dispute with regard to availability of water resources of the Mandovi/Mahadayi and other related aspects to the tribunal for adjudication and decision. As per the provision of Act, Central Govt. is required to initiate steps for finding a negotiated settlement of the disputes failing which the dispute is required to be referred to the Tribunbal for adjudication within one year from the receipt of the complaint. The Central Government had convened an Inter-State meeting at the level of Chief Ministers on 16.11.2002 to find negotiated settlement. The meeting has since been postponed at the request of Government of Goa.

Constitution of Tribunal for sharing of Krishna water

757. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to constitute a Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate on the sharing of surplus waters of the Krishna river; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take steps to constitute a Tribunal as the Bachawat Tribunal award on sharing of Krishna waters expired in 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provision of Act, Central Govt. is required to initiate steps for finding a negotiated settlement of the dispute failing which the dispute is required to be referred to the Tribunal for adjudication within one year from the receipt of the complaint.